

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

STATE SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR



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Week of May 10th — May 16th



COMMUNITY ALERT

Free Days at Boerner Botanical Gardens

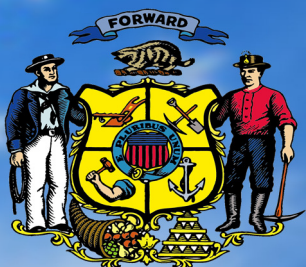
Free admission the first Tuesday of the month with proof of Milwaukee County residency
May 5 – Sept. 1

9400 Boerner Dr.
in Whitnall Park
Open 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Seven days a week

Dear Friend,

Thank you for reading the legislative update. I hope you find the information provided here useful.

As Always,
I'm Here to
Serve

**Upcoming Joint Finance Committee Topics**

The Joint Finance Committee will cover multiple important issues in the upcoming week. On the agenda are many topics in the budget concerning education, such as expanding the private school choice program and altering pupil and teaching performance assessments for schools and important funding.



Also, earlier this week Gov. Scott Walker requested that Joint Finance Committee remove his proposal to combine the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority with the troubled Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation due to growing concern from lawmakers and citizens of the state. You can find more information about the Joint Finance Committee and details on specific budget proposals they will be discussing online at the Wisconsin State Legislative Fiscal Bureau website at [www.http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb](http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb).

New Legislation for Milwaukee Public Instruction

Rep. Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield) and Sen. Alberta Darling (R- River Hills) plan to introduce legislation to convert Milwaukee's struggling public schools into charter schools that would be controlled by an independent board. This would place the struggling schools under the jurisdiction of an official appointed by the Milwaukee County executive instead of the Milwaukee school board.

While I have reservations about a plan I haven't seen yet, I remain open to discussing opportunities to improve educational outcomes for all schools, particularly plans that include wrap-around services that benefit not just our children, but their parents. Especially in light of the fact that 85 percent of our kids read below grade level and 70 percent of their parents are functionally illiterate. We have failed in our constitutional responsibility to provide every kid in Wisconsin an equal public education for years.



Community Brainstorming Conference

Topic: The war on black males

Sat. May 16

9:30-10:30 am

St. Mathews Church

(Parking on 8th Street off Chambers)

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Contact Us!
We Enjoy Hearing From You!



Better Police Training for Cases with Mental Illness Could lead to Reduced Shootings

On May 12th, the Joint Committee on Finance took up several budget items concerning mental health, which was a key factor in the shooting and death of Dontre Hamilton at Red Arrow Park in Milwaukee. I offered a motion to create a \$250,000 per year grant program to train officers in working with people with mental illness. As the lead Senate author of Wisconsin's law requiring an independent investigation into an officer-involved death, I believe that requiring better training will lead to improved safety for both officers and citizens. While my motion did not pass, I will keep working on this critical issue.



Child Abuse and Neglect Investigations Found to be Majorly Backlogged in Milwaukee



On May 14th, the Joint Committee on Finance held a contentious debate about the backlog of investigations of child abuse and neglect cases in Milwaukee. According to the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau, backlogged cases of child abuse and neglect in Milwaukee grew to 2,918 in June, 2014. It is apparent that as Gov. Walker spends more and more time out of the state on the 2016 presidential campaign trail his administration is letting major states problems, like this one, fall through the cracks. The children of Milwaukee deserve justice, it is time for Wisconsin law makers to step up to the plate and take care of this issue. That is why this week I challenged Governor Walker to care more about black kids in Milwaukee than voters in Iowa.

Wise Words of the Week!

**"The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you."
- B.B. King**